



Bird's Eye View of Western Trip

Of G. W. M. Taylor, Pres.
of True Reformer's Bank.

Two Buildings in St. Louis,
and Louisville, Respectively.

Richmond, Va.,—Special, Tuesday evening; Oct. 15th, on the 2:15 train we wended our way towards the west. Traveling that day and night, we arrived at Cincinnati early the next morning where we spent the day. The growth of the Mercantile Department necessitated an increase of teams, so in company with the Grand Master, we visited the O. Armleder, Co. one of the most reliable wagon factories of the world where the President purchased two very fine wagons for that department. He also purchased a safe from the Hall Safe Lock Company and presented same to the Cincinnati Division for the preservation of their records.

BOUND FOR ST. LOUIS.

Leaving Cincinnati on 8:40 p. m. we arrived in St. Louis, Mo., on the morning of the 17th about 8 o'clock where we were met by a committee composed of Deputy General, Rev. J. T. Chief M. T. Bailey, Editor Miller, Turner Byrd and others who escorted us in carriages passed the hall to the residence of Dr. W. H. Mansfield, one of the leading colored physicians of the city. In the city, we held three meetings: two public and one union and a meeting of the Rosebud children. On each occasion the Grand Master demonstrated his ability as a financier and leader and made many friends to the order.

HE PURCHASES A BUILDING.

The G. W. Master's main object in going to St. Louis was for the purpose of letting out a contract for the erection on the present lot owned by the Institution a commodious building, but finding that material was high and steadily advancing and labor the same, he turned his attention otherwise and succeeding in purchasing a building in a better location at a much lower figure. This building was formerly owned by the Beaumont Medical College and cost \$40,000 to build ten years ago. It is a four story, press brick front on both sides, with heating apparatus in good order, with fixtures for gas or electricity. The price paid was \$12,500 which was conceded by the people and the press to have been an exceedingly low figure for such a building in such a locality, being one block from the main street of the city.

RECEPTIONS.

Too much cannot be said for the way we were entertained by the people of St. Louis. Invitations upon invitations were received, all seeming desirous of doing honor to the Negro President.

STOP BY DECATUR, ILL.

On our way to Chicago, Ill., upon invitation of Mr. Lewis Steward who became impressed with the able speech delivered by President Taylor before the Negro Business League at Chicago

Ill., August last. We stopped by Decatur on October twenty-fourth where we found a progressive set of colored people. They had on the evening previous opened a joint stock grocery store which promised to be successful. Meetings were held at the Baptist and Methodist churches after which President Taylor organized a club of thirty members which promises to be made True Reformers in short.

DOINGS IN CHICAGO

On Saturday the twenty-sixth, we arrived in Chicago, where we found our old valiant warrior at his post of duty in the person of Rev. W. L. Anderson. On Sunday evening the President preached at the Olivet Baptist Church, followed by two public meetings and a union meeting. Suffice it to say, he has created great enthusiasm in Chicago and with such an able leader there as Rev. Anderson, Chicago bids fair to bloom and blossom as a rose.

We were royally entertained by Mrs. A. E. Watkins, Miss Lena Pickett, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. G. Davis and the True Reformers in general.

JACKSON, MICH., NOT FORGOTTEN.

The city of Jackson, Mich., was visited reaching there on October thirty-first. We were met by a committee consisting of the Worthy Master and Messenger of the Fountain and driven in a carriage to the residence of the Messenger Mrs. S. A. Carter. The Fountain there is the only one in Michigan, and was organized by the late Grand Master and Founder, Rev. Brown in company with Mr. Ed. Ellis, Jr., some eight years or more ago. While there we held a union and public meeting, and as upon former occasions, the Grand Master did justice to the cause he represented.

BANQUET.

Special mention should be made of the great taste and style shown at this banquet. A spacious hall had been arranged, wherein covers were laid for more than one hundred. The supper which was served in courses, passed off without a hitch, with the younger element of the Fountain serving as waiters. While the guests were dining, the occasion was further enlivened by sweet strains of music as rendered by competent performers.

LOOKING AFTER FURNITURE.

The purchasing of the St. Louis property necessitating the equipment of the same, we paid a flying trip to Grand Rapids, Mich., which contains the largest furniture houses in the world, where the President visited several and secured bids on same. Suffice to say that on a bill of goods amounting to less than \$500, by a visit he was able to save between \$150 and \$200 over local dealers, freight prepaid.

INDIANAPOLIS ALSO FAVORED.

Leaving G and Rapids on the night of the fourth, after traveling all night, we arrived in Indianapolis on the morning of the fifth of November. No meeting having been worked up, we contented ourselves with a gathering of some of the members. The President gave them an interesting family talk and showed them the way to build up the work in their vicinity.

LOUISVILLE'S SHOWING.

Louisville, Ky., which has rapidly grown in the past few years under the leadership of Chief Oliver, was next visited, arriving there on the morning of the sixth. While there we held two

public and one union meeting. The work of the Reformers is increasing rapidly at this point, and the recent purchase of a building has served to create greater enthusiasm. Many are being added to the field. While there we were domiciled as usual at the residence of Chief Oliver, where he and his wife used every endeavor to make our stay pleasant. In company with the President in addition to being entertained by the True Reformers collectively, we were entertained by Mrs. Watson of West Chestnut Street, and Mrs. Robinson and daughters, Miss Lillie and Miss Deatheridge of Chicago, and Miss Nannie Oden at 2807 W. Walnut Street.

QUEEN OF THE WEST.

Cincinnati was favored with a second visit on our return trip. We held here two very successful meetings on the 11th and 12th, a public and union meeting respectively. There we met our young Chief, Mr. Griffin, who had about him more than one thousand men, women and children. They seem to have great confidence in him, and whatever move he makes for the advancement of the Institution he can count upon their support. At the public meeting on Walnut Hill the President was at his best, and as he portrayed the benefits of this organization over that of others, few there were but who saw and understood.

THE SOCIAL SIDE

On the evening of the twelfth after the union meeting, the True Reformers banquetted the President and guest where all the delicacies of the season were spread before them and quickly commanded to depart. Young Griffin is a hustling young man and reflects great credit upon his position.

DAUGHTER STATE VISITED.

The meeting at Hinton, W. Va., was not what we had hoped or what it would have been had we gotten to the city earlier. Arriving there about 8:30 we found that the people had been to the church and learning that we had not arrived, had departed. We were fortunate, however, in getting together quite a number at the hall where the President gave a very instructive talk, after which we were carried to the table where we met willing sisters who made it extremely pleasant for us.

CLIFTON FORGE JOTTINGS

On the evening of the 14th, we arrived at Clifton Forge, where after partaking of supper we were carried to the church where we found a good crowd awaiting us. The President upon introduction by Chief P. P. Nicholas, made of one his telling speeches and electrified his hearers. Leaving the church we went across the street to the hall, where we met another table presided over by the female part of the Order who knew how to satisfy the inner man.

STAUNTON THE LAST STOP.

Arriving in Staunton something near 12 o'clock, we were met by Chief Bronson who carried us to the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Pannell, our stopping place. In the evening, we held a large and enthusiastic meeting at Rev. Moses's church where President Taylor, instead of exhibiting any sign of weakness appeared in all his strength. So forcible was his utterances and convincing in his arguments that the vast audience, as one man, on the completion of the President's speech, upon the instigation of the pastor saluted him as evidences of their approval. Leaving Staunton on the morning of the 16th, we arrived here on the three twenty-five train, the President, having stopped at his country home, at Deswell, Va.

GENERAL SURVEY.

From the vast audiences the President at every point and the great enthusiasm shown, one can but feel that the Negro is fast realizing the great good to be accomplished by combination Concentration and Co-operation.

At each point, we have endeavored to assist the President as much as possible by adding our feeble voice in defense of the principals of this great institution. The West is alive and we feel that the fire that has been kindled will grow and grow until the blaze shall be seen and felt in every hamlet, city and town where the son of Ham doth tread. Yours for the Order,

R. J. Ky.

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